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Summer 2007

American Society of Parasitologists Newsletter, v. 29, no. 2, Summer 2007

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American Society of Parasitologists

Newsletter

*Published Quarterly by the American Society of
Parasitologists*

Newsletter: Released on the ASP
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July 25, 2007

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Newsletter**

The ASP newsletter accepts information and news of a parasitological nature from all disciplines. Consider publishing your parasite poems, posting a link to your favorite "parasite lecture" providing an actual parasite lecture, or otherwise send "something" in to the editor. Your contribution is valuable and will be considered for publication.

Sincerely,

Scott L. Gardner

Curator, Harold W. Manter
Laboratory of Parasitology
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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THE RETIRED PARASITOLOGIST EDGE

The authors (see Figure 1) have recently retired from careers searching for the ultimate answers in parasitology and are now able to consider even larger questions of life from their rocking chairs. We hope you enjoy this tongue-in-cheek column by two new retirees, Dick Seed and John Oaks." *The Editor* will make an effort to include "podcast" information supplied by the

authors so "the reader" may also become "the listener." Because these two fellows are "old" we would expect a certain degree and level of crabiness and I am sure that you, the reader, will appreciate the sage advice that these two provide.



Figure 1

The Dear Dick and John Column

D & J column #3

Dear Dick & John:

I have been a University teacher for over 30 years and have collected a large number of old lecture notes, slide, jars of pickled tapeworms, animal skins, pinned insects and other teaching aids. I simply can not force myself to throw these things out. Since I am the last parasitologist in the department, there is no new faculty to inherit these treasures. What do you suggest?

Disappointed Teacher

Dear Disappointed Teacher:

You have highlighted two points that should be considered as you retire: First, what should you do with all those teaching aids and resources that you all have so carefully created, protected, treasured, and used for all these years? We agree with



you that these still have great value and should be preserved. We have several suggestions for you in that regard.

Second, we are disappointed to hear that you are to be the last parasitologist in your department. To encourage your department to replace you with another parasitologist is a great topic for future column *[we all look forward to reading that, especially after what has been happening here at the University of Nebraska and elsewhere (-Ed)]*.

What to do with teaching aids for parasitology.

a.) Although you may be retired, you still can teach and of course, use your teaching aids to advantage. For example, you can offer to give lectures to school kids, women's organizations, business groups, etc. Baby boomers are planning their post-retirement travels and will greatly appreciate pictures from your collecting sites in far off lands. However, remember when presenting your ideas for these presentations to the organizers of these groups, use titles such as, "Travelogs" or "Hints for the Traveler" to avoid negative reactions from these decision-makers. We have found that titles, such as "Uninvited Guests that You may Bring Home from Your Vacation" or "Why did I get that Wiggly Red Line on my Ankle after I Returned from a Safari?" or "How did that Fly Develop in My Shoulder?" tends to lessen the number of invitations to speak.

On the otherhand, once you are invited to speak, your slides on patients with fulminating tropical diseases will certainly wake up the audience. Jars of pickled tapeworms and other dead tissue specimens displaying pathology will attract the attention of those in the audience. As you pass these specimens around, do not let your attention be drawn to those older individuals in audience that cover their mouths with a wad of Kleenex and run toward the nearest bathroom. Be aware that your most appreciative audience will be junior high and high school students, who love to see and hear information that they may take home for dinner time conversation and "gross out" their parents and younger siblings. So go ahead and show all those kids the pictures of elephantiasis and spread the gospel according to H.B. WARD. This knowledge may even have another benefit. It may keep those in the overweight students in your audience from eating their undercooked fried chicken lunch. *[After teaching a weel-long unit on parasitology using part of the "Wonderwise" kit here at the Manter Lab a few weeks ago, it is clear that 7th and 8th grade boys really like parasitology. It was not so clear that the girls liked it as much. (-Ed)]*

b.) Who doesn't like the weird science fiction movies with all those creatures from outer space? We are convinced that Carlo Rambaldi, the creator of movie hero, ET, fashioned this critter after looking at the scolex of a tapeworm. We believe that the use of the body forms of parasites, as models for the science fiction movie industry, is really untapped or at least underutilized. We are sure that Carlo Rambaldi, Mr. Spielberg and Amblin Entertainment would love to invest in your specimen collection for future movie critters.



c.) We also suspect that you could get good money by selling the preserved specimens and tropical medicine slides on EBAY. We believe that there is an unmet need and a real market for many of these objects. We believe that customers will be the curious amateur scientist, the psychiatrically unsound, a rural medicine men and fundamentalists preachers, who wish to show the wicked of their congregation what a real plague looks like and scare the heck out of those who sit in the front rows of the church. However, you should remember the movie industry pays big bucks, so if you choose EBAY, you may be undercutting your potential earnings for retirement.

d.) Another possibility is to place some of the preserved specimens in your china étagère or your trophy cabinet as souvenirs and mementos from your former profession. Tastefully displayed preserved insects or particularly large specimens of *Ascaris* or tapeworms in antique lab glassware are beautiful things to behold. They would ultimately become the talk of the neighbors and again help to educate others and increase regional interest in parasitology.

e.) For those of you who have grandchildren or are involved in scouts, telling scary stories and eating marshmallows around the campfire are traditional camping activities and create memories. Preserved tapeworms, trematodes and pinned insects make marvelous props. One of us has told mystery stories using the tapeworm form (especially the scolex) as the figure who arises out of the black lagoon and terrorizes the community by burrowing into their host's brain, first taking over their bodies, and then the world. The other of us has used large pinned insects for the same story theme, except in this case the humans eventually won the battle by driving silver stakes coated with DDT and organophosphates into the hearts of the alien invaders.

f.) Animal skins may be part of your collection. We have found that they make great moccasins or slippers and can be used as gifts for some of your relatives. If you can refrain from explaining the road-kill source of these pelts, such a gift is a great gesture and given the fact that you made them yourself, your relatives will hold them in high regard. For the best effect on family, we recommend that you be sure to avoid using the part of the pelt with the tire tread track on them.

g.) Old lecture notes are a harder issue to deal with because they are part of you and their creation has consumed a significant portion of your professional life. We can think of only 2 possible decorative uses for them. One is to have them shredded and stuffed into pillow cases. When done properly they are as soft as any pillow made and have the added advantage that you are surrounded by all of the knowledge that you have imparted over the years.

Now, your spouse may have a concern with our second suggestion, but if limited to your office or study, you might just get a way with papering your walls with this incredible wealth of well organized, digested and written compilations of parasitological information. Think of it, a visitor innocently asks a question about



your former profession and you can casually walk over to the wall and present them with a polished rundown on any parasitological topic that seems appropriate.

Now some of our students (those we suspect earning low grades) tell us that there is an additional use of our lecture notes and perhaps yours, as well. Have them bound into book form; and when you find sleep difficult, instead of counting sheep, turn on the light and read from them. Remember how effective they were in putting some former students to sleep? We bet that it could have the same effect on you when you are the audience. Think of the money you will save on sleep-inducers, such as Ambien. If you can afford the expense, we would recommend that you have a duplicate copy of the lecture notes made. Use one copy shredded within your pillow and the second for the bound copy and late night reading. We almost guarantee a good nights sleep for you. However, **heed this warning:** Do not read too much! We did this and had to call 911 because it almost caused a coma!

h.) As a last straw, evaluate your former department chair's support of your parasitology program. Should your evaluation of the chair be negative and you are not be able to find a colleague who will appreciate owning your demonstration collection and notes, abandon all your teaching aids and leave them in your former office for others to deal with, you tried your best!

Remember to send us your questions to us. **Our motto is: Your freedom is our freedom. The Dick & John Retirement Consults, Inc. are only here to serve you!**

Dick and John, brothers in parasitism

Richard Seed and John Oaks can, most likely, be contacted at:

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NEWS FROM AIBS -

Now Online at <http://www.aibs.org/media-library/>



Lectures and Photos from the 2007 AIBS Annual Meeting, "Evolutionary Biology and Human Health," held May 14 -15 in Washington DC.

The AIBS Media Library (previously named the Virtual Library) contains plenary lectures by some of the world's most eminent biologists recorded at AIBS Annual meetings from 2000 onwards. You can view synchronized audio and video, plus slides and transcripts of most presentations.

Go to the AIBS Media Library at <http://www.aibs.org/media-library/> to link to the following new content:

Eric Green, National Institutes of Health "Comparative Genome Sequencing: Using Evolution to Decode the Human Genome"

Edward Holmes, The Pennsylvania State University "The Evolution of Emerging Viruses"

Rustom Antia, Emory University "Modeling the Emergence of Infectious Diseases"

Carlos Bustamante, Cornell University "Computational Methods for Enabling Gene Mapping in Natural Populations and Domesticated Species"

Douglas C. Wallace, University of California "A Mitochondrial Paradigm of Metabolic and Degenerative Diseases, Cancer and Aging: A Dawn for Evolutionary Medicine."

Sarah Tishkoff, University of Maryland "Genetic Variation and Adaptation in Africa: Implications for Human Evolution and Disease"

Martin Nowak, Harvard University "Evolutionary Dynamics of Cancer"

Randolph Nesse, The University of Michigan, "Evolutionary Medicine is Flowering. How can we help it set seed?"

Also online:

Professional photographs from the 2007 AIBS Annual Meeting.

Go to <http://carrollphotography.lifepics.com/index.cfm> and enter event code AIBS052007.

Photos and Hi-Res images on CD ordered directly from this site will be shipped approximately 48 hours from when the order is received. Inquires can be submitted via the contact page at the site.

Questions?



Contact: spotter@aibs.org

AIBS Public Policy Report, Volume 8, Issue 14, July 9, 2007

- President Bush vetoes another stem cell bill, Congress and states respond
 - House committee approves alternative energy legislation
 - Science appropriations update: NSF, NOAA, NASA
 - Senate committee call for EPA to reopen libraries
 - Employment opportunity: AIBS public affairs/policy representative
 - New in BioScience: "National Wildlife Refuges: Death by a Thousand Cuts?"
 - From the Federal Register
-

The AIBS Public Policy Report is distributed broadly by email every two weeks to AIBS membership leaders and contacts, including the President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Director, AIBS Council Representative, Journal Editor, Newsletter Editor, Public Policy Committee Chair, Public Policy Representative, and Education Committee Chair of all AIBS member societies and organizations (see the ONLINE MEMBER DIRECTORIES section of www.aibs.org for contact information). Any interested party may self-subscribe to receive these free reports by email or RSS news feed, by going to www.aibs.org and clicking on Public Policy Reports.

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PRESIDENT BUSH VETOES ANOTHER STEM CELL BILL, CONGRESS AND STATES RESPOND

On 20 June 2007 President Bush vetoed the most recent legislation passed by Congress to expand federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. If signed into law, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007 (S. 5) would have authorized the use of federal funds for research on human embryonic stem cell lines derived from surplus embryos at in-vitro fertilization clinics.

Said President Bush of the vetoed legislation: "It would compel American taxpayers - for the first time in our history - to support the deliberate destruction of human embryos. I made it clear to Congress and the American people that I will not allow our nation to cross this moral line."

Currently, federal funds only support research using embryonic stem cell lines created before 9 August 2001, the date that Bush signed an Executive Order establishing this policy.



On the same day Bush vetoed S. 5, he issued Executive Order 13435 encouraging federal agencies to support research on stem cells that does not involve the destruction of human embryos, and to rename the "Human Embryonic Stem Cell Registry" the "Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Registry." Critics and some advocacy groups have charged that the latest Executive Order is meaningless because scientists who study non-embryonic stem cells already have access to federal funding for research.

Although S. 5 passed both the Senate and House with votes of 63-34 and 247-176 respectively, neither chamber is expected to round up the two-thirds majority necessary to overturn the President's veto. However, two stem cell supporters in the Senate, Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Arlen Specter (R-PA), sponsored a provision in the 2008 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education appropriations bill to make more embryonic stem cell lines available for federally funded research. The measure would extend the 9 August 2001 deadline President Bush set in his first Executive Order to 15 June 2007. According to Senator Harkin, this would increase the number of embryonic cell lines eligible for federal funding from the six currently viable to 400. The Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill passed the full Senate Appropriations Committee 26-3 on 21 June and will now head to the floor for full consideration by the Senate.

Despite difficulties advancing at the federal level, financial support for embryonic stem cell research continues to remain a priority in a number of individual states, including California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, and New Jersey. The day after President Bush vetoed S. 5, the New Jersey legislature approved a bill that would allow the state to borrow \$450 million over 10 years to support stem cell research. The measure, which comes in addition to the \$270 million the state has already approved to build stem cell research facilities, will go before New Jersey voters this November.

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES ALTERNATIVE FUELS LEGISLATION

The House Science and Technology Committee approved four energy bills 27 June 2007 by voice vote. The Global Change Research and Data Management Act of 2007 (H.R. 906), if passed, establishes several goals. The Act would create an interagency committee on global change, an interagency working group on climate and other global change data management, a U.S. Global Change Research Program to identify vulnerabilities in the United States with regard to global change, a national plan for global change research, and an Office of Global Change Research Information.

The Department of Energy Carbon Capture and Storage Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 2007 (H.R. 1933) would amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to further carbon capture and storage research and development. The Biofuels Research and Development Act (H.R. 2773) and the Solar Research and Development Act (H.R. 2774) would support research and development of alternative energy sources, biofuels and solar energy, respectively. Following Science and Technology Committee approval of the legislation, Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN) said: "This Committee has responded with an aggressive energy agenda. In addition to the four bills we passed today, this Committee will contribute an even dozen pieces of legislation that make a vital contribution to the national strategy to put the U.S., and the world, on track to a more sustainable future."

All four measures will likely be rolled into a House energy bill that Democratic leaders hope to pass following the Independence Day recess.



Bills likely to be included in the House package are:

- HR 364, Establishing the Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E)
- HR 906, The Global Change Research and Data Management Act of 2007
- HR 1933, The Carbon Capture and Storage Research, Development and Demonstration Act of 2007
- HR 2304, The Advanced Geothermal Energy Research and Development Act of 2007
- HR 2313, The Marine Renewable Energy Research and Development Act of 2007
- HR 2773, The Biofuels Research and Development Enhancement Act
- HR 2774, The Solar Energy Research and Advancement Act of 2007

SCIENCE APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE: NSF, NOAA, NASA

As both chambers of Congress prepare to bring funding bills to the floor for consideration, the White House has issued several statements of administration policy (SAP) on funding bills. Recently, the White House issued an SAP regarding H.R. 2643, the House funding bill for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, stating, "The Administration strongly opposes H.R. 2643 because, in combination with the other FY 2008 appropriations bills, it includes an irresponsible and excessive level of spending and includes other objectionable provisions." Additional veto threats have been issued if appropriations bills continue in their current form. In a June 16 radio address, President Bush stated, "I put Democratic leaders on notice that I will veto bills with excessive levels of spending."

As reported in the 11 June 2007 AIBS Public Policy Report, the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) have held a "mark up" for the fiscal year (FY) 2008 appropriations bill. The legislation, which still must be passed by the full committee and House, would allocate \$53.6 billion to the agencies that fall within the Committee's jurisdiction. It would fund \$1.9 billion in climate change initiatives and activities, \$171 million over the President's FY 2008 request. The House CJS legislation would allocate \$6.509 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF). Of this amount, Research and Related Activities (R&RA) would receive about \$5.14 billion and Education and Human Resources (EHR) would receive \$882.6 million. The House Committee on Appropriations has announced plans to resume consideration of the CJS bill on 11 July.

On 28 June, the Senate Committee on Appropriations approved its FY 2008 funding legislation for Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies. According to committee documents, the measure funds "scientific research and technology that will improve America's ability to compete in a global economy." If adopted, the Senate legislation would provide NSF with \$6.55 billion. This is \$636 million over the FY 2007 enacted amount and \$124 million more than proposed in the President's budget.

The Senate CJS appropriations bill, in its current form, allocates \$44 million more than its counterpart in the House for the NSF including an additional \$28 million for EHR and \$16.4 million more for R&RA. Both appropriations bills (House and Senate) are above the President's request of \$6.429 billion for the NSF, including \$8 million more in the House subcommittee-passed bill and \$24.4 million more in the Senate committee-passed bill.

NASA would receive \$17.46 billion, including \$5.66 billion for science programs. The Senate Committee on Appropriations mark is \$1.2 billion above the FY 2007 enacted amount, less than the current House level of \$17.6 billion, and \$150 million more than the President's



budget request. Additionally, science would receive \$408 million more than the FY 2007 enacted level.

The current Senate proposal would provide \$4.215 billion to NOAA, which is \$137 million more than the FY 2007 enacted level, slightly more than the House level of \$4 billion and \$405 million over the President's budget request. Within this funding, \$636 million would be provided to the National Ocean Service; \$927 million to the National Weather Service, \$765 million to the National Marine Fisheries Service; \$1 billion for satellite programs, and \$439 million for research. The committee also allotted \$795 million for the recommendations set forth by the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative.

SENATE COMMITTEE CALLS FOR EPA TO REOPEN LIBRARIES

As reported in the 25 June 2007 AIBS Public Policy Report, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies would provide \$7.77 billion to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The appropriations legislation includes language directing \$2 million to be used to reopen five EPA libraries that the Administration has closed. The House is presently recommending \$8.066 billion for the agency.

NEW IN BIOSCIENCE: "NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES: DEATH BY A THOUSANDS CUTS?"

In the July/August issue of BioScience, freelance writer Noreen Parks reports on the ramifications of continued budget cuts for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

An excerpt from the article follows:

There's no other wildlife conservation network like it in the world-547 reserves covering nearly 100 million acres (40.5 million hectares) of wetlands, forests, grasslands, islands, and deserts that support thousands of plant and animal species, including 260 listed as endangered or threatened. Once a crown jewel of our national heritage, now the National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) system itself is under threat because of severe budget shortfalls, dwindling personnel numbers, and a staggering backlog in maintenance and operations. For years, refuge managers have tightened their belts and made do with less, and now some observers fear that a hundred years' worth of conservation efforts are crumbling.

Michael Woodbridge, of the National Wildlife Refuge Association, testified before a House of Representatives subcommittee on 20 July 2006 that, on average, the refuges get less than \$4 per acre (\$10 per hectare) to manage and restore essential wildlife habitat, conduct research and monitoring, maintain facilities and equipment, and oversee recreational and educational activities for their 40 million-plus annual visitors. Funding for the refuge system within the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) budget has in recent years approached only about \$400 million, a figure well below the amount refuge advocates believe adequate. At the same time, USFWS estimates show that operations costs such as salaries, fuel, and supplies are inflating by roughly \$15 million a year, says USFWS spokesman David Eisenhauer. "Unfortunately, it appears these tight budgets are not going away soon," he adds.

One dire consequence of the budget shortfalls has been the steady erosion in staff. By 2009,



565 positions-including 475 permanent field staff-will be eliminated, according to Eisenhower. The number of unstaffed refuges will increase from 188 in 2004 to 221 in 2009, when they will make up 40 percent of all refuges. In the Pacific region alone, the reductions will eliminate almost a quarter of the positions held by biologists at the refuges, and only six full-time law enforcement staff will remain to cover the region's 64 refuges.

To read the complete report for free, please visit:

http://www.aibs.org/washington-watch/washington_watch_2007_07.html

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- NEON updates, <http://www.neoninc.org>;

- Check for opportunities to comment on federal agency actions affecting the biological sciences at the AIBS Federal Register Resource, <http://www.aibs.org/federal-register-resource/index.html>

NATIONAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS ALLIANCE WASHINGTON REPORT

July 24, 2007

CONGRESS MOVES TOWARD CONFERENCE ON COMPETITIVENESS LEGISLATION

On Thursday, 18 July 2007, the Senate amended and passed H.R. 2272, the 21st Century Competitiveness Act, an omnibus bill to invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve American competitiveness. The Senate struck the House language and substituted the text of S. 761, its own version of the competitiveness bill, originally passed 25 April 2007. The measure passed by voice vote.

Both bills contain provisions intended to improve K-12 science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education through teacher training and mentoring, to support and strengthen basic research, and to reauthorize the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Standards and Technology. However, the



Senate and House versions differ significantly in scope and levels of funding authorized for various programs and agencies.

Following passage of the amended H.R. 2272, the Senate formally asked for a conference with the House and appointed the following conferees: Bingaman (D-NM), Inouye (D-HI), Kennedy (D-MA), Lieberman (I-CT), Mikulski (D-MD), Kerry (D-MA), Nelson (D-FL), Domenici (R-NM), Stevens (R-AK), Enzi (R-WY), Alexander (R-TN), Ensign (R-NV), and Coleman (R-MN). No date has been officially set for the meeting of House and Senate conferees.

STATE NAMES NEW SCIENCE ADVISOR

United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has named Dr. Nina V. Federoff to be her new Science and Technology Adviser. Federoff, a plant molecular biologist, is the Willaman Professor of Life Sciences and Evan Pugh Professor in the Department of Biology and the Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences at Pennsylvania State University.

Established in 2000, the Secretary's S&T adviser serves as the State Department's chief scientist and principal liaison to the national and international scientific communities. Federoff is the third person to hold the post.

Among the chief responsibilities of the S&T adviser are: enhancing the scientific literacy at the Department of State; increasing the number of scientists working for the Department of State, both domestically and overseas; building bridges to the scientific community; and, providing timely advise on emerging S&T issues with implications for foreign policy. Federoff's research has centered on the molecular biology of plant genes and transposons, as well as plant adaptations to stressful environments.

A TEN-YEAR SCIENCE PLAN FOR USGS

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has released a ten-year science strategy, "USGS Science in the Decade 2007-2017." As noted in the executive summary, "This report is the first comprehensive science strategy since the early 1990s to examine major USGS science goals and priorities." Six tactical guidelines were given in the plan, including the following:

- 1) Understanding Ecosystems and Predicting Ecosystem Change: Ensuring the Nation's Economic and Environmental Future;
- 2) Climate Variability and Change: Clarifying the Record and Assessing Consequences;
- 3) Energy and Minerals for America's Future: Providing a Scientific Foundation for



Resource Security, Environmental Health, Economic Vitality, and Land Management;

4) A National Hazards, Risk, and Resilience Assessment Program: Ensuring the Long-Term Health and Wealth of the Nation;

5) The Role of Environment and Wildlife in Human Health: A System that Identifies Environmental Risk to Public Health in America; and,

6) A Water Census of the United States: Quantifying, Forecasting, and Securing Freshwater for America's Future.

The USGS plays a pivotal role in safeguarding the public against natural hazards and providing the science needed to manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources and defend public health from contamination, pollution, and emerging diseases. With the potential for increased natural hazards due to climate change, it is fundamental that the USGS be adaptive in their approaches to providing scientific data for policy makers, resource managers, and the public at large. The USGS Science in the Decade 2007-2017 is available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/2007/1309/>.

SCIENCE EDUCATION IN TEXAS: HERE WE GO AGAIN

Recent developments in Texas could seriously jeopardize the quality of public education in the state. If past scuffles in Texas over curriculum and textbooks are any indication, the latest attempt to introduce politically-driven material into the curriculum will jeopardize the quality of science (including evolution and environmental studies), health education, and social studies.

On 16 June 2007, Governor Rick Perry (R) signed House Bill 188, a law that changes the process by which textbooks are reviewed and adopted by public school districts or open-enrollment charter schools. The law requires the Texas State Board of Education to adopt new rules for the mid-cycle review and adoption of textbooks. Currently, the next K-12 science education textbook review proceedings are slated to begin in 2009. Additionally, the law provides for the review and adoption of supplementary instructional materials. Science education advocates are concerned that the new law will permit non-scientific books such as the Discovery Institute's "Explore Evolution," a book that repeats creationist arguments under the guise of "critical analysis," to be incorporated into the biology curriculum as supplementary material.

The Texas State Board of Education (SBOE) met 18-20 July 2007. The meeting was presided over by a new chairman, Dr. Don McLeroy, appointed a day prior by Governor Perry. The appointment of Dr. McLeroy, a Republican dentist from Bryan, Texas, concerns supporters of data-based science education. A board member since 1998, McLeroy voted against the state's current high school biology textbook because it did not include a discussion of the weaknesses of evolution. Kathy Miller,



president of the Texas Freedom Network, a citizen group advocating the separation of church and state, told the Dallas Morning News on 18 July that she would give the governor an F for appointing "a clear ideologue who has repeatedly put his own personal and political agendas ahead of sound science, good health, and solid textbooks for students."

The SBOE meeting agenda was to include a discussion of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards for science (ironically, this discussion was also to consider new TEKS for the elective Bible courses recently specified by the state legislature in HB 1287). The science TEKS were scheduled for formal review in fall 2007; however, it now appears that review of the science standards will be postponed due to delays in the completion of the English and reading TEKS.

On 11 June 2007, Governor Perry signed House Bill 3678, the Religious Viewpoint Anti-Discrimination Act, into law. This law explicitly permits public school students to express religious viewpoints and beliefs in classroom assignments and public events where student speakers are permitted. The law also permits students to organize, advertise, and conduct non-curricular religious activities to the same extent that students are permitted to organize and conduct other non-curricular activities in school facilities.

Proponents for real science education are concerned that HB 3678 makes no exception for science classes, suggesting that the law allows religious and creationist explanations for natural phenomena to be accepted in class work, homework, and exams without penalty. The law applies to the 2007-2008 school year, taking effect 1 September 2007.



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

AIBS PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE

The American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) anticipates hiring (contingent upon the expected receipt of federal grant funds) an individual with experience working at the interface of science, communications, and public policy to serve as a Public Affairs Representative (PAR). The PAR will be a full-time AIBS employee, reporting to the AIBS Director of Public Policy.

For more information about this position, including application procedures, go to http://www.aibs.org/classifieds/aibs_positions_available.html #3657

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

Research Assistant, Ecological Parasitologist Hatfield Marine Science Center, Newport, Oregon, USA

Overview: This position will join a team of ecologists studying the ocean ecology of juvenile salmon in the Pacific Northwest. This research position will examine the parasite communities of juvenile salmonids to address habitat use and trophic interactions in the Pacific Ocean during the initial months of marine residence. The candidate will be expected to spend least 10-20 days at sea off the Oregon and Washington coasts for juvenile salmon collection. The position includes salmon collection, dissection, recovery and identification of macroparasites, data analysis, and oral and written presentation of results.

Qualifications: BA/BS, MS preferred, in biological science, such as parasitology, zoology, biology, fisheries or ecology. Strong quantitative skills in both univariate and multivariate statistical analyses. Coursework/background in parasitology required. Proven experience in use of computer software for data entry, analysis, and presentation of results in graphical form. Experience with preparation of written and oral presentation of research results. Must be able to work independently and cooperatively with a large team of scientists.

1 year appointment with the potential of renewal.

Salary commensurate with experience.

Contact:

Kym C. Jacobson, Ph.D.

Zoologist

NOAA Fisheries

at Kym.Jacobson@noaa.gov or at (541) 867-0375



See the ASP Web site for the current list of posted job announcements from: AcademicKeys` e-Flier for Biological Sciences. Go to: <http://asp.unl.edu> and click on "positions" on the left side of your screen.

PARASITOLOGICAL LITERATURE

There is a new article in Faculty Publications sponsored by the Harold W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology on the UNL Digital Commons.

John O. Whitaker Jr., Brianne L. Walters, Linda K. Castor, Christopher M. Ritzi, and Nixon Wilson (2007)

HOST AND DISTRIBUTION LISTS OF MITES (ACARI), PARASITIC AND PHORETIC, IN THE HAIR OR ON THE SKIN OF NORTH AMERICAN WILD MAMMALS NORTH OF MEXICO: RECORDS SINCE 1974.

ABSTRACT.- Information concerning mites found in the hair of wild mammals of North America north of Mexico is summarized for records accumulated since a similar paper was published by Whitaker and Wilson in 1974. Chiggers, ticks and species that burrow into or under the skin are generally excluded although follicle-inhabiting mites are included. Included are lists a) of the mites organized taxonomically, b) hosts from which each species has been reported, and c) states and provinces citing references for each separate record.

(This resource will assist those interested in parasitic mites of mammals to more readily obtain literature, identify, and understand these interesting creatures. The work has 295 references and is indeed a massive effort -Ed)

GO TO:

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/parasitologyfacpubs/1> To access the file - FREE!



WEB-STUFF

Online Dictionary --Still available for free download!

The **Armand R. Maggenti Online Dictionary of Invertebrate Zoology**, is still available on the Digital Commons web site at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln!

Go To: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/onlinedictinvertebratezoology/> and click on "complete work."

Online Journal of Parasitology --Always available world-wide for free download!

The **Journal of Parasitology** is still being placed onto the Manter Laboratory of Parasitology digital commons web site at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. We are plugging away at uploading the files and we have most of them from 1915 up to 1970 in the system.

Go to: : <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/jrnlp/parasitology/>

ASP business office.

The **ASP business office** is now on line and is set up to allow dues payments via a secure internet connection directly to Allen Marketing and Management (AMM). Please be aware that the database that we use for our member search function and the ASP home page log in is **not** linked to the secure server database of AMM. This means that your log in function for the ASP web site has no actual data connectivity with AMM. The web servers of the ASP in the Manter Lab are secure but no financial data are kept on them. To go to the virtual business office click on "ASP BUSINESS" on the left side of your screen.

LibraryThing

The **Manter Laboratory** is using a relatively new on line service to input our catalog of books and make this catalog available to anyone with an internet connection and web browser capabilities.

To see what we have on line now, go to: <http://www.librarything.com/catalog/manterlab>



Manter Laboratory Research in Mongolia

Manter Laboratory personnel are preparing to head over to Mongolia for a 3 year study of the parasites of the vertebrates of that area. Keep track of our work there at:
<http://lamarck.unl.edu/mongolia>



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Annual Midwestern Conference of
Parasitologists
Helminthological Society of Washington
New England Association of Parasitologists
Northern California society of Parasitologists
Parasitology Section, Canadian Society of
Zoologists
Rocky Mountain Conference of Parasitologists
Southeastern Society of Parasitologists
Southern California Society of Parasitologists
Southwestern Association of Parasitologists

Note to Members

The ASP Newsletter welcomes news stories and articles. Please send your text electronically to Scott Gardner as an e-mail and attach as an MS Word document. Drawings, photographs, charts, or tables can be sent as B/W TIF files at 300 dpi. Please send TIF files one at a time. A general rule is to limit photograph size to 3x5". You may attach both text and graphic files to your email message.

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